



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 9, 2008
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: City Administrator's Office
SUBJECT: Federal Moratorium On Offshore Oil Leases

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council consider the request of Mayor Blum and Councilmembers Helene Schneider and Das Williams to adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Supporting the State and Federal Moratoria on New Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing off the Santa Barbara Coastline.

DISCUSSION:

Attached is a memorandum from Mayor Blum and Councilmembers Schneider and Williams requesting that an item be placed on the agenda regarding a Federal Moratorium on Offshore Oil Leases.

Background: On May 3, 2005, the Santa Barbara City Council voted to send a letter to the California Coastal Commission expressing its opposition to any extension of offshore oil leases off the central coast of California and encouraged the California Coastal Commission to not make a consistency determination for the pending thirty-seven offshore federal oil leases.

ATTACHMENT(S): Memorandum dated September 2, 2008
PREPARED BY: Marcelo Lopez, Administrative Services Director
SUBMITTED BY: Marcelo Lopez, Administrative Services Director
APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



City of Santa Barbara
Mayor and Council Office

Memorandum

DATE: September 2, 2008

TO: Jim Armstrong, City Administrator

FROM: Mayor Marty Blum
Councilmember Helene Schneider
Councilmember Das Williams

SUBJECT: Federal Moratorium on Offshore Oil Leases

Pursuant to Council Resolution 05-073 regarding the Conduct of City Council Meetings, we request that an item be placed on the September 9, 2008 Santa Barbara City Council Agenda regarding a resolution that states the City of Santa Barbara's support of the current off-shore oil moratorium.

- Summary of information to be presented:

A proposal to adopt a Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara that supports the state and federal moratoria on new offshore oil and gas leasing off the Santa Barbara coastline. Please refer to the attached resolution language for details.

- Statement of Specific Action:

Mayor Blum and Councilmembers Schneider and Williams request that the Council adopt the proposed Resolution and authorize the City Administrator to send copies of said Resolution to federal, state and local elected officials.

- Statement of the Reasons Why it is Appropriate and Within the Jurisdiction of the Council to Consider this Subject Matter and to Take the Requested Action:

The national media surrounding the August 26, 2008 Board of Supervisors 3-2 vote reversing the County's position that supported the continuation of the federal moratorium on new oil and gas leases in federal waters makes it necessary for the City of Santa Barbara to re-emphasize its commitment to energy independence and support of the federal moratorium on new oil exploration, drilling and production in the Santa Barbara Channel.

cc: Mayor and Council
City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SANTA BARBARA SUPPORTING THE STATE AND
FEDERAL MORATORIA ON NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND
GAS LEASING OFF THE SANTA BARBARA COASTLINE

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara is the site of the devastating oil spill of 1969 that led to the forming of the modern environmental movement and Earth Day worldwide;

WHEREAS, City of Santa Barbara residents have long opposed new oil and gas drilling off their coastline and support protecting the valuable coastal environment over development of the relatively small amounts of oil and gas offshore California;

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara City's General Plan states clearly that the City should "continue efforts to prohibit new oil exploration, drilling and production in the channel and to cause the termination of existing leases and the removal of platform structures," and its Local Coastal Plan also highlights the importance of the City's coastal natural resources, ocean-related/visitor-serving commercial uses, and an active, working harbor dependent upon healthy marine resources in the Santa Barbara Channel;

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2005, the Santa Barbara City Council voted to send a letter to the California Coastal Commission expressing its opposition to any extension of offshore oil leases off the central coast of California and encouraged the California Coastal Commission to not make a consistency determination for the pending thirty-seven (37) offshore federal oil leases;

WHEREAS, according to the U. S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA), new offshore drilling "would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil and natural gas production or prices before 2030";

WHEREAS, in 2007, the City of Santa Barbara was the first city in the State to pass the Architecture 2030 Challenge, by enacting an ordinance requiring all new construction to exceed Title 24 energy savings standards by 20% and was the first city in Southern California to certify its greenhouse gas emissions inventory in all municipal facilities in order to create a plan to reduce energy consumption over time; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2008 the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, on a 3-2 vote, authorized the County to send a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger to consider a change in policy that would allow expanded oil exploration and extraction in Santa Barbara County. Such decision reversed the County's position in 2007 that supported the continuation of the federal moratorium on new oil and gas leases in federal waters and prompted national headlines questioning this change of energy policy in Santa Barbara, California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Santa Barbara continues its strong support of the state and federal moratoria on new offshore oil and gas leasing off the Santa Barbara coastline.

SECTION 2. The City of Santa Barbara encourages and supports all levels of government to research and implement options that increase energy independence and reduce reliance on foreign oil, such as incentives to improve energy efficiency, requirements to improve automobile fuel efficiency, provide funding for research into renewable energy and alternative fuels, and fully fund energy conservation and efficiency.

SECTION 3. The City Administrator shall transmit copies of this resolution to Senators Boxer and Feinstein, Congressman Capps, Governor Schwarzenegger, Assemblymember Nava, State Senator McClintock and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.